

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 02006 211739Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09 SP-02

SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /128 W

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P R 201515Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1403

INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 2006

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, GB

SUBJECT: GULF OIT RETRENCHING IN GABON

REF: LIBREVILLE 1869 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: GULF OIL'S RETRENCHMENT IN GABON HAS NOW BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

LENGTHY ARTICLE IN JULY 20 ISSUE OF LIBREVILLE'S L'UNION EXPLAINED SITUATION LEADING UP TO DECISION TO CUT BACK ON GULF'S ACTIVITIES IN GABON AND STRESSED THAT GULF'S INTERNAL FINANCIAL SITUATION WAS SOLE BASIS THEREFORE. THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO CONNECTION BETWEEN GULF RETRENCHMENT AND GABON'S OWN FINANCIAL CONDITION. ARTICLE WENT ON TO STRESS RECENT QUOTE POSITIVE INDICATIONS UNQUOTE OF GULF'S EXPLORATION WORK IN GABON AND MENTIONED THAT GULF WOULD INCREASE ACTIVITY HERE SHOULD SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERIES BE MADE.

2. COPIES OF ARTICLE WILL BE POUCHED NEXT WEEK FOR ATTENTION AF/C. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AND COMMENT: GULF GABON DIRECTOR EARL WISNER TOLD EMBOFF THAT ARTICLE HAD BEEN BASED ON PERSONAL INTERVIEWS AND THAT IT WAS ACCURATE. HE BELIEVES THAT ARTICLE IS FAIR AND BALANCED; THAT IS ALSO GENERAL CONSENSUS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF US BUSINESS COMMUNITY HERE. WISNER HIMSELF AS WELL AS MINISTRY OF MINES OFFICIALS WERE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW ARTICLE

PRIOR TO PUBLICATION. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AND COMMENT.TIENKEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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